

CHILDERS, WALTER

INTERVIEW

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Carl R. Sherwood,
Investigator.
October 23, 1937.

Interview with Walter Childers,
Okemah, Oklahoma.

My father, Ellis B. Childers, was born January 10, 1866, the third son of Napoleon B. Childers and Sophia Welford.

N. B. Childers was a half Cherokee and half white man, adopted by the Creeks at the termination of the Civil War.

Ellis' mother was one-fourth white and three-fourths Creek while his grandfathers on both sides were of English descent.

Ellis attended school at the old Vallahassee Mission in 1877 where he remained three years. Afterwards he went to the Government school at Carlisle, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, where he remained three and one-half years.

During these years he learned the printer's trade and left there in June, 1884. Unfortunately, however, owing to lack of funds, he was unable to return and

CHILDERS, WALTER.

INTERVIEW.

#7938.

2

complete his education. After this he spent two years on a cattle ranch until 1886 when he began to assist his father in farming and remained two years on his father's farm.

In January, 1888, he married Miss Fannie Davis, daughter of Joe Davis, a citizen of the United States, and to this union were born two children, Walter and Irene.

In 1887 Ellis Childers was elected to the House of Warriors; he was the youngest member of the lower house and in 1891 was again elected for a term of four years.

Ellis Childers first became prominent in the House by his defense of Chief Checota when the Muskogee Party used every effort to impeach him. The young man's speech of defense was a remarkable effort for one of his years and experience and went far in rendering him popular with his party.

CHILDERS, WALTER.

INTERVIEW.

#7938.

3

Ellis Childers always had about fifty head of cattle and thirty head of horses and mules on the range. These cattle, horses and mules fed themselves through the winter but Mr. Childers fed the teams that he worked. He also had from two to three hundred hogs running loose in the bottom lands. He farmed about two hundred acres of bottom land in corn and cotton.